

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /132 W

----- 044898

R 301000Z APR 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 949

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0278

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UK, IZ

SUBJECT: CONTINUED INCARCERATION OF BRITISH SUBJECT

REF: BAGHDAD 655 (1973)

1. GOOD EXAMPLE OF RELATIVE POWER OF MFA AND SECRET POLICE PROVIDED BY EXPERIENCE OF MR. ROBERT ELLIS, RETIRED BRITISH CITIZEN WHO HAS LIVED MOST OF HIS ADULT LIFE IN IRAQ. HE WAS ARRESTED IN NOVEMBER 1973 (REFTEL) AND HELD INCOMMUNICADO UNTIL APRIL 27 DESPITE REPEATED DEMARCHES BY UK INTERESTS SECTION, SWEDISH AMBASSADOR, AND SINCE APRIL 10 UK EMBASSY. MFA WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY INFO ABOUT HIS ARREST.

2. FINALLY ON APRIL 27, UK CHARGE IAN MCCLUNEY GOT CALL TO SEE DG OF PROTOCOL ABDUL WADOUD SHAIKHLY IN ORDER TO INTERVIEW ELLIS. INTERVIEW TOOK PLACE IN PRESENCE OF SHAIKHLY AND UNKNOWN PERSON, PRESUMABLY FROM SECURITY SERVICES, NEITHER OF WHOM SAID A WORD. ELLIS WAS MENTALLY ALERT AND IN RELATIVELY GOOD HEALTH CONSIDERING HIS 75 YEARS. MCCLUNEY ASKED SHAIKHLY IF HE HAD ANYTHING TO CONVEY ABOUT ELLIS' ARREST ON UNSPECIFIED CHARGES, CONFIDENTIAL

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HIS BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO FOR SIX MONTHS, AND HIS

CONTINUED INCARCERATION. SHAIKHLI SAID NO. HE DID,
HOWEVER, WALK WITH MCCLUNEY TO DOOR OF MINISTRY, IN
UNUSUAL COURTESY WHICH MCCLUNEY INTERPRETED AS A WAY OF
APOLOGIZING FOR MFA'S POWERLESSNESS TO EVEN ORALLY DEPLORE
SUCH PRACTICES.

LOWRIE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: ARRESTS
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Draft Date: 30 APR 1974
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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